

**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE  
TENNESSEE ATHLETIC COMMISSION  
500 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY  
DAVY CROCKETT TOWER  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243**

**Thursday, December 11, 2008  
1:00 p.m.**

**Tennessee Athletic Commission Meeting**

**Call to Order** by Chairman Sammons at 1:26 p.m.

**In attendance** were Chairman Jack Sammons, Commissioners Teri Mast, Neal Frauwirth, M.D., Chuck Clark, Stuart Howard, and Scott White, Kurt Spindler M.D., Steve Hannah, Deputy General Counsel Wayne Pugh, Assistant Commissioner Steve Majchrzak, Assistant Attorney General Leslie Bridges, Nicole Canter for minutes.

Absent: Joe Smith.

**Approve minutes of November 14 meeting.** Motion by Commissioner Hannah, second by Commissioner Frauwirth, motion carried.

**Personnel Committee Update** by Commissioner White. The personnel committee has met twice since October meeting and reviewed approximately 80 resumes. The committee narrowed the field to 8 candidates, who will be interviewed telephonically by the committee prior. The final 3 candidates will be interviewed by the full commission at the January commission meeting.

**Staff Reports/Update** by Assistant Commissioner Majchrzak. He introduced Donna Hancock. She and her staff will take responsibility for all clerical and administrative functions until a director is in place.

Review of revenue collection to date: \$9,324.00. This figure excludes the November 15 HBO event. It includes licensing fees and 4% collections from the Sommet Center event in August. Further discussion of budget and revenue collection procedures.

Assistant Commissioner Majchrzak reported positive publicity from the November 15 event at Vanderbilt. He thanked Commissioners Frauwirth and Smith for their liaison efforts.

## **Old Business -Amateur Sanctioning Organization**

There is an application process in place, for organizations wishing to be sanctioned.

Commissioner Hannah, chair of amateur sub-committee, briefed the commission on the minimum criteria necessary for sanctioning bodies to be recognized. A suggested policy guideline was distributed to commission. Commissioner Hannah would like the commission to adopt as policy. It would not be an official part of the rules but simply a policy of board used to evaluate and guide commission when making decisions. Commissioner Clark moved to accept the guidelines as policy, Commissioner Hannah seconded. The motion carried.

## **New Business**

Commissioner Hannah stated that there is an amateur MMA event scheduled in Nashville this evening, but the promoter, Gameness, would also like to go forward with pro-MMA fights. The promoter is currently prevented from doing so due to indemnification issues with the State. If the sanctioning group would take on that liability, there would not be an issue.

According to Commissioner Hannah, the sanctioning organization and the promoter have worked out indemnification issues. However, there is no permitting process in place for professional events; there is only a licensing mechanism for combatants. HBO requested and obtained permission from the Commission 30-days in advance of their professional event on November 15. It was considered a case-by-case basis.

There was disagreement as to whether Gameness requested approval for the event 30 days prior. Commissioner Clark suggested retroactively approving the event and allowing the pro fights to go forward. Counsel for the State advised that there is no statutory provision for retroactively licensing combatants or approving events. The statute states that 30 days notice is required for events.

A representative from Gameness stated that all regulations as to medical testing and weigh-ins have been adhered to in accordance with the sanctioning body, WKA. Commissioner Clark moved that the commission retroactively approve and permit the pro-MMA event. Commissioner Howard seconded. After lengthy discussion, the motion failed upon a 4-4 roll call vote:

Mast – no

Clark – yes

White – no

Howard – yes

Spindler – no

Frauworth – yes

Sammons – no

Hannah – yes  
Smith – absent.

The commission decided to handle event permits on a case-by-case basis until an executive director and staff is in place. Requests must be made thirty (30) days in advance. The amateur sub-committee will begin drafting an action plan for implementing pro-MMA fights.

Commissioner Mast made a motion that officials can be reciprocally licensed in Tennessee as long as all licensing provisions are met. Commissioner Hannah seconded and the motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned** by Chairman Sammons at 4:46 p.m.